

# EUROPEAN PATENT OFFICE

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TITLE : PRODUCTION OF HIGH-TENSILE ALUMINUM ALLOY EXTRUDED TUBE EXCELLENT  
IN STRESS CORROSION CRACKING RESISTANCE

ABSTRACT : PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To provide a method for producing an aluminum alloy extruded tube excellent in stress corrosion cracking-resistance, having high strength and suit able as the front fork outer tube of an automatic two wheeler in particular.

SOLUTION: An aluminum alloy extruded tube having a compsn. contg., by weight, 3.0 to 10.0% Zn, 0.5 to 3.0% Mg and 0.05 to 3.0% Cu, contg. one or more kinds among  $\leq 0.3\%$  Cr,  $\leq 0.3\%$  Mn and  $\leq 0.3\%$  Zr and one or more kinds of  $\leq 0.05\%$  Ti and  $\leq 0.005\%$  B, in which the contents of Fe and Si as impurities are respectively limited to  $\leq 0.2\%$ , and the balance aluminum is subjected to solution treatment and quenching treatment, is subjected to natural aging for  $\geq 100$ hr, is thereafter subjected to heat treatment at 150 to 250°C for 30sec to 10min in such a manner that the heating rate from 100°C to a prescribed heat treating temp. is regulated to  $\geq 1^\circ\text{C/sec}$  and is finally subjected to artificial aging treatment.

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